



Society for Museum Archaeology Constitution

1. The title of the organisation shall be the Society for Museum Archaeology.

2. Aim

2.1 The membership of the society shall be concerned with the indigenous and foreign archaeological collections curated in museums and institutions in the British Isles and with related fieldwork.

3. Objectives

3.1 The objectives of the Society shall be to promote active museum involvement in all aspects of archaeology and to emphasise the essential role of museums within the archaeological discipline.

4. Activities

- 4.1 To act as an archaeological pressure group within the museum profession and other relevant bodies and to offer advice on all matters relating to archaeology.
- 4.2 To campaign for integrated nationwide archaeological coverage.
- 4.3 Campaign for improvement to antiquities legislation.
- 4.4 To advance museum involvement in field archaeology.
- 4.5 To encourage the Society's members and museums to adhere to the most current national standards and guidance for governing bodies as well as professional codes of ethics and conduct relating to archaeological material and its associated documentation. In particular, those relating to acquisition and disposal, display, conservation and preservation where approved or formulated by the Society.
- 4.6 To advance museum involvement in the planning process and in the compilation and maintenance of sites and monuments finds records.
- 4.7 To campaign for the preservation of archaeological and historical sites and the associated finds there from as an irreplaceable cultural resource and develop techniques for their interpretation.
- 4.8 To carry out or to assist in surveys of the state of archaeological practice in museums and make recommendations thereon.



- 4.9 To foster post-entry archaeological training.
- 4.10 To improve curatorial standards and to raise the level of archaeological research in museums including the publication of museum collections.
- 4.11 To encourage all museums and institutions with archaeological collections to have at least one member of staff qualified or sufficiently experienced in working with archaeological material.
- 4.12 To foster close relationships between archaeologists working in museums, archaeological colleagues outside museums and with other organisations involved in archaeology.
- 4.13 To campaign for adequate financial provision to realise the above.

5. Membership

- 5.1 Membership is open to anyone with an interest in museum archaeology according to the grades of membership offered.
- 5.2 **Regional and special interest Groups**
To further the aims and effectiveness of the Society, regional groups may be set up and may appoint their own management committees, but shall at all times work within the spirit of the constitution of the Society and shall incur no financial commitment to the Society. The geographical coverage of the groups shall be determined by regional needs and preferences but it is suggested that where appropriate they conform to appropriate regional bodies, particularly those recognised by national governments.
- 5.3 Subscriptions will be proposed by the Committee, be subject to ratification by the Society as its AGM and shall fall due in the April of each year regardless of time of joining.
- 5.4 Meetings of the Society will be held to promote the exchange of information including regular publication at least once a year.

6. Committee and Officers

- 6.1 The management of the Society shall be vested in a committee consisting of the following 10 officers who shall be members of the Society:
 - Chair
 - Vice-chair
 - Secretary
 - Membership Secretary



- Treasurer
- Assistant Treasurer
- Editor
- Newsletter Editor
- Training Officer
- Digital Officer

Plus

- 6 ordinary members

The committee shall also have the power to co-opt additional members:

- 1 individual from Scotland
- 1 individual from Wales
- 1 individual from Northern Ireland
- Individuals who increase geographical coverage or represent other professional archaeological organisations as appropriate. These additional individuals may act as corresponding members.

6.2 The terms of office for committee officers and members shall be as follows:

- Chair – up to 3 consecutive years after which they may stand for re-election for a second period of no more than 3 additional years
- Vice-chair – up to 4 consecutive years
- Officers and members with portfolio – up to 6 consecutive years in their respective positions
- Ordinary members without portfolio – up to 4 consecutive years in this capacity

Committee officers and members are a liberty to stand down at any time during their tenure.

6.3 Officers and members of the Committee shall be elected on a straight majority at the AGM from a list of candidates, each of whom shall be nominated in writing by two members of the Society at least 21 days prior to the AGM

6.4 Any places on the Committee which are left unfilled by election or which become vacant during the year may be filled by co-option, due regard being given to those regional areas or specialist interest not already represented.

6.5 The Committee shall meet to transact the business of the Society at least four times a year and quorum of such meetings shall be six.

7. Annual General Meeting

7.1 The Annual General meeting, of which 28 days notice shall be given, shall be held normally in the autumn of each year, at which the Annual Report of the Society's proceedings with a



Statement of Accounts shall be laid, and the officers and Members of the Management Committee appointed as necessary.

- 7.2 The Society shall have power to make new Rules at any Annual or Special General Meetings, but no addition or alteration shall be made unless the resolution proposing it has been circulated to membership at least six weeks before the date of the meeting at which it is to be voted upon and is duly carried by a two-thirds majority of members present and entitled to vote.
- 7.3 The right to vote at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting shall be restricted to Ordinary Members who have been registered with the Treasurer for at least 28 days prior to the AGM or SGM.

8. Special General Meeting

- 8.1 The Secretary shall cause a Special General Meeting to be called within six weeks of receiving in writing a request to do so, stating the business to be transacted and signed by at least twenty members of the Society.

9. Dissolution of the Society

- 9.1 If the Society at any time decides to terminate and wind up its affairs, then its assets, after meeting all the liabilities, shall be distributed to any succeeding organisation with substantially similar objectives or in the absence of such an organisation at the discretion of the committee.